than what the manufacturers have been allowed to manufacture. Will the hon. Minister consider the feasibility or desirability of allowing good manufacturers who produce good machines which attract premium price to produce more or give them more licences to produce more of such vehicles.

SHRI NARAYAN DUTT TIWARI: Sir, under the new procedure of liberalisation, they have been allowed automatic capacity expansion up to 49 per cent. and there are other measures also by which they can expand, and I hope that by the new measures that have been mentioned, those units which do better will do best.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Sir, I consider that two-wheelers are a cheap mode of transport. It serves the community more. Therefore, Sir, I do not want any freeze or control on the production of the two-wheelers. There may be control on other types of vehicles, not these.

After saying this. Sir, may I know whether it is a fact that in some countries in western Europe battery-operated two-wheelers have been produced and they have reached the market recently. That will take care of the fuel problem here. May I know whether the Minister is aware of this, whether he can permit certain industrialists to take up production of these battery-operated machines in the country? I know, Sir, for certain that there is a unit in Mysore already. But it has failed. Will he consider taking up this matter?

SHRI NARAYAN DUTT TIWARI: It is a good suggestion. I will ask the Pune Institute of Automative Research to go into this and advise us on the matter. As mentioned by the hon. Member, there is already a factory in Mysore doing this. We will certainly invite them for discussions on this and see how they can do better.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Advani.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: No question.

*306. [*The questioner (Shri Chaturanan Mishra) was absent. For answer, vide* Col. 41 infra.]

DESU under heavy Financial Debt

*307. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking (DESU) is heavily under debt amounting to crores of rupees;

(b) whether it is a fact that large scale thefts of electricity in Delhi have led to substantial leakage of DESU's revenue during the last three years; and

(c) if so, whether any assessment has been made by Government with regard to the matter referred to in part (b) above; if so, what are the details thereof, also stating the steps taken by Government to identify the unauthorised/unmetered connections and to plug the loopholes to check theft of electricity?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) Yes, Sir. The debt liability of DESU is substantial.

(b) and (c) The transmission and distribution losses of DESU, which also include the element of theft of electricity, are about 3 per cent lower than the estimated all-India T & D losses. The measures being taken by DESU to prevent and control the theft of power include extensive checks installation of improved types of meters sanctioning temporary connections in accordance with actual loads and levy of a 10 per cent surcharge on consumers who do not instal shunt capacitors when required.

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: I would like to know the amount of debt that DESU has got to repay and also the net profit of the DESU.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: The debt liabilities aggragate to Rs. 910.23 crores. In regard to the profibility of the DESU at present it is not making any profit.

MR. CHAIRMAN: How can they?

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Sir, any student of economics will know that debt after all could be repaid by three methods—either by issuing bonds or out of its net profits or through a new capital injected in it. By new capital I mean some sort of resources by the Government of India. I would like to know from the hon. Minister how such a large amount of debt, which DESU has to pay, will be repaid.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: The first measure that we have taken is to revise the tarrif, because the gap between the cost and the tarrif that was being charged for the last nearly eight or ten years was so big. That was the main reason for all these losses all these years. The tarrif has now been revised. Therefore, revenue has increased to some extent to close the gap, but the cumulative loss will not be made good immediately. It is not possible. All the economic measure will have to be taken to see how these losses can be made good. It is not one particular measure.

श्री वीरेन्द्र वर्मा : मान्यवर, माननीय मंत्री जी ने अंग्रेजी में जो उत्तर दिया है उस में 3% हानि बताई हैआल इण्डिया एवरेज के हिसाब से और हिन्दी में जो उनका उत्तर मिला है उसमें यह 30% है । माननीय मंत्री जी यह बताने की कृपा करें कि आल इण्डिया के जो लासेज हैं वह कितने हैं हम उस में घटा लेंगे । हिन्दी करेक्ट है या अंग्रेजी करेक्ट है इस पर जरा बताएं । क्या यह सही है कि जो लासेज हैं तमाम के तमाम थ्रेफ्ट के कारण हो हैं ? बड़ बड़े इंडस्ट्रीयलिस्ट अधिकारियों से मिल कर चोरी करते है ।

श्री वसंत साठे : सभापति जी, हिन्दी में गलती से शून्य ज्यादा लग गया, छपाई की गलती है । मुद्राराक्षस... (व्यवधान)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You thought zero had no value.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Hindi version was incorrect He thought probably nobody would know Hindi.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: We were talking of T & D losses. All India losses are about 21 per cent on average. Here they are about 18 per cent. That is why we said they are three per cent less, but even then they are higher. If we take technical losses as being about 11 to 12 per cent, then 6 per cent can be attributed to distribution losses in which even theft is included. Rigorous measures are being taken by DESU. You must compliment DESU in this respect because in one year *i.e.* during 1985-86 because of the efforts of the new Management, they have detected upto 11-3-1986, 344 cases of thefts as against 48 cases during 1984-85 and 32 cases during 1983-84. This shows that thefts had been taking place earlier also, but the efforts to detect them have been so vigorous that the DESU Management deserve to be complimented. That is why their collection also is improving. This shows, as was stated, that there are substantial cases of thefts of power in Delhi.

SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Sir, the hon. Minister was just now saying that DESU should be complimented. I want to point out that PLF is directly connected with losses and just today in answer to a question, the hon. Minister says that from January, 1986 to February, 1986 the fall in PLF is from 76 6 per cent to 70.6

per cent. It is a fall of 6 per cent and it is quite big. What is the reason?

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Actually, Sir I do not know wherefrom these figures my friend has got...

SHRI KAPIL VERMA: It is in the reply to Question No. 316 today.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Actually from 60.3 per cent in April, 1985 -- November, 1985 it has gone up in February to 70.6 per cent. In January it had reached 76.6 per cent. So...

SHRI KAPIL VERMA: The facts are given here from 76.6 per cent in January, 1986 it has gone down to 70.6 per cent in February. I can send it to you.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: You can sent it to me. It is a subsequent question. We will find out...

SHRI KAPIL VERMA: It was distributed just now.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: He has gone to the other question. As far as this question is concerned, the PLF in 1982-83 in DESU was 51 per cent; in 1983-84 it was 47.7 per cent; in 1984-85 it was 58.9 per cent; and from April, 1985 to February, 1986, it was 63.2 per cent. So progressively the PLF, as against the national average of 54 per cent, has been going up. Now, if he is talking of the monthly figures, sometimes if a particular unit is closed down for some reason or shut down for maintenance, etc., that brings down the monthly average. So that does not mean that the general average is coming down.

DR. H. P. SHARMA: Sir, of the 385 or 386 cases of theft detected, how many cases involved the large-scale industrial units, medium-scale and small-scale units? Or does the figure include private consumers, house hold consumer also?

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Sir, I do not have the details of the break-up of these cases. I will send it to the hon. Member.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

Coal India Ltd.

*308. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the coal stocks worth Rs. 100 crores were written off in 1983 by the Coal India Ltd.;

(b) if so, whether the proper procedure for measurement and evaluation by a committee appointed by the Board of Directors was followed and the permission of Government taken for this purpose;

(c) if so, how did the shortage arise; whether the balance sheet for the previous years had been revised accordingly; whether any action has been taken against the officials responsible for this loss and what steps have been taken to prevent the recurrence of such lapses in future; and

(d) whether there has been any shortage in coal stocks of the Coal India Limited during 1984-85; if so, the value thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The total write off of coal stocks due to various reasons during the year 1983-84 in companies under CIL was 28.428 lakh tonnes involving an amount of Rs. 49.38 crores approximately. This also includes write off pertaining to previous years from 1979 onwards.